

Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluations

As an alternative to preparing an individual Section 4(f) evaluation, FHWA may, in certain circumstances, have the option of applying a programmatic evaluation. Under a programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation, certain conditions are laid out so that, if a project meets the conditions, it will satisfy the requirements of Section 4(f) that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives and that there has been all possible planning to minimize harm.

There are four nationwide programmatic Section 4(f) evaluations that cover four project types: historic bridges; minor amounts of land from public parks, recreation areas and wildlife and waterfowl refuges; minor amounts of land from historic sites and bikeway projects. Bikeway projects will not be discussed further in detail as this programmatic 4(f) deals more with a policy of when 4(f) status is and is not applicable. These programmatic Section 4(f) evaluations may be applied only to projects meeting the applicability criteria. The environmental must detail how the project meets the applicability criteria must be documented. The documentation needed to support the conclusions required by the programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation would be comparable to the documentation needed for an individual Section 4(f) evaluation.